

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 06166 281814 Z

51

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ADP-00 USIA-12 PA-02 /030 W

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R 281715 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9582

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6166

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION PROJECT

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: STATE 125431

1. ON JUNE 28, IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL, WE DISCUSSED TRIP OF REVERENDS MERVEILLE AND SABATINO WITH RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. OFFICIAL AGREED TO SEND CABLE TO ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS ASKING THAT IT SEEK SYRIAN REACTION TO PROPOSED VISIT BY PRIESTS TO DAMASCUS.

2. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT PRIESTS ALSO SCHEDULED TO VISIT ISRAEL. HE RECALLED RECENT REITERATION OF SYRIAN REGULATIONS BARRING TRAVELERS WHO HAD VISITED ISRAEL FROM SYRIA. HE SAID PRIESTS SHOULD BE ADVISED NOT RPT NOT TO ATTEMPT TO USE ISRAELI- VISAED PASSPORTS TO ENTER SYRIA SINCE THEY CERTAINLY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ADMITTED WITH SUCH PASSPORTS.

3. FOR CAIRO: WE SUGGEST IF PRIESTS CARRYING ISRAELI- VISAED PASSPORTS THAT THEY BE ADVISED TO HAVE SECOND PASSPORT ISSUED BY USINT CAIRO. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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